

23. A roller apparatus for use in connection with assembling a truss on a truss assembly apparatus, the truss having a plurality of truss members and a plurality of connector plates, the truss table having at least two truss table guides and a work surface, said roller apparatus comprising:

a frame;

a roller having ends coupled to said frame configured to press the connector plates into the truss members;

adjustment apparatus supporting said roller at variable spatial relationships to the work surface while maintaining the roller parallel to the work surface;

the adjustment apparatus comprising adjustment means supporting each end of the roller, the adjustment means operably connected to simultaneously adjust the ends of the roller between at least two positions for pressing connector plates into truss members; and

a plurality of drive wheels attached to said frame for moving the roller apparatus along the truss table guides.

Remarks

The Final Office Action of December 1, 2001 has been carefully considered along with the art cited therein. Applicant has amended claims 21 and 23. No new matter has been added.

Claims 21-25 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Sanford in view of Gore, et al. Gore presents an assembly for moving a roller press between an operable first predetermined position, for pressing the connector plates into the wood members and a "second predetermined position to allow the truss to pass beneath the pressing roller." See, Gore, Col.3, ll. 30 – 50.

Applicant's invention and claims, as amended, provided for an adjustment apparatus to simultaneously adjust the ends of the roller while keeping the roller parallel between at least two positions for pressing connector plates into truss members. That is, the roller is moved between multiple operating positions to accommodate pressing plates into connectors of differing heights. Additionally, neither Gore nor Sampson teaches a combination of the teaching of the two patents.

The claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the examiner is of the opinion that a telephone call would speed examination of this application please call Peter Schroeder at 214/220-0444.

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